

Message Text

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13

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 AID-05 SY-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8799

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 8278

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, AR

SUBJECT: TERRORISM IN WAKE OF STATE OF SIEGE DECLARATION

1. LEFTIST TERRORISTS HAVE REPLIED TO DECLARATION OF THE STATE OF SIEGE WITH SEVERAL ACTIONS DESIGNED TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR CONTEMPT FOR THIS LATEST GOA ACTION. A TRAIN STATION IN A BUENOS AIRES SUBURB WAS OCCUPIED FOR A SHORT TIME, AND 14 BUSES, WHICH WERE SUPPOSEDLY EARMARKED FOR THE ARMY, WERE BURNED. IRONICALLY, ACCORDING TO ONE NEWSPAPER, THE BUSES, WHICH WERE SET AFIRE AS THEY STOOD IN A FACTORY LOT, WERE DESTINED TO BE SHIPPED TO CUBA AND NOT TO THE ARMY. IN ADDITION, THE ERP KILLED THE SEVENTH OFFICER IN ITS CURRENT ASSASSINATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ARMY.

2. THE WAVE OF PANIC THAT ACCOMPANIED FEARS FOR THE SAFETY OF SCHOOLCHILDREN HAS SUBSIDED TO SOME EXTENT. DESPITE ALL THE RUMORS OF MORE SERIOUS ACTS, ONLY ONE BOMB WAS FOUND NEAR A SCHOOL AND THREE TEMPORARY ABDUCTIONS WERE REPORTED. ALL THREE CHILDREN WERE REPORTEDLY RETURNED AFTER BEING GIVEN MESSAGES WITH THREATS AGAINST THEIR SCHOOLS. THE REPORTS THEMSELVES, HOWEVER, ARE SUSPECT SINCE THEY COME FROM THE FEDERAL POLICE.

3. POLICE, ON THE OTHER HAND, RAIDED THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY (PST) AND ALLEGEDLY FOUND ARMS

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AND SUBVERSIVE MATERIALS. THE PST, WHICH SAW THREE OF ITS

MEMBERS KILLED BY RIGHT-WING TERRORISTS WITHIN THE LAST WEEK, HAS REQUESTED AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT AND A MEETING WITH OTHER OPPOSITION PARTIES. THUS FAR, NEITHER HAS TAKEN PLACE.

4. DURING THE GREATER PART OF THE LAST 30 YEARS, THE COUNTRY HAS LIVED UNDER A STATE OF SIEGE. THIS MOVE IN AND OF ITSELF WILL DO LITTLE TO END TERRORISM. THE QUESTION IS WHAT ADDITIONAL MEASURES WILL THE GOA TAKE AND HOW EFFECTIVE THEY WILL BE.
MONTLLOR

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